

REMARKS

In the Office Action¹, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 14-16, 18, 20-25, 29-34, and 38-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,226,618 to Downs et al and objected to claims 6-13, 17, 19, 26-28, and 35-37 as being dependant upon a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant amends claims 1, 7, 9, 19, 20, and 27; and cancels claims 6 and 26. Claims 1-5, 7-25, and 27-41 remain pending.

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-5, 14-16, 18, 20-25, 29-34, and 38-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Downs be withdrawn.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 9, and 20 to include subject matter from allowable claims 6, 9, and 26 respectively. As Downs does not teach the claimed subject matter, Downs fails to anticipate claims 1, 9, and 20.

Claims 1-5, 7-25, and 27-41 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicant declines to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge
any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 29, 2008

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